

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Newsletter of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

January-February 2016

## COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

### The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Celebrates 10 Years

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund, an innovative approach to ensuring that New Hampshire's wetlands are well-protected for the long-term at the same time that our economy continues to grow. The ARM Fund was established in 2006 to provide a method for "in-lieu" fee payments for a developer or builder whose project will impact wetlands but who cannot mitigate those impacts locally. These payments satisfy mitigation requirements and are then used to support larger-scale and more significant mitigation projects than would otherwise be accomplished. New Hampshire has long placed a high value on wetland areas – often called swamps, lowlands and marshes – because of the many benefits they provide, including wildlife habitat, water quality improvement and flood storage. In fact, New Hampshire was among the first states in the nation to enact its own legislation to protect wetlands.

NHDES is able to use the ARM funds to work with municipalities and non-

*Commissioners's Column, cont. page 2*



*101-acre wetland abutting the Blackbriar Woods Preserve in Goffstown.*

### Diesel Rebates Reduce Emissions & Save Money

Thanks to grants offered by the Air Resources Division's Mobile Sources Section, some of the state's school buses are running cleaner and more efficiently, helping to reduce diesel pollution while saving bus companies fuel costs. EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Program provides the funding for NHDES' Clean Diesel program that helps to remove old, highly-polluting vehicles from the road or to upgrade older diesel engines to meet more stringent emission standards. In 2015, NHDES issued grants for the replacement of three school buses owned by the Oyster River Cooperative School District, and one bus owned by The Provider, Inc.

Lisa Huppe, Oyster River Cooperative School District Transportation Director, stated, "Oyster River is pleased and grateful to be a recipient of the DERA rebate program. The rebate helped substantially toward the replacement cost of three buses this past fall. The new buses are more efficient and have a much cleaner exhaust. In addition to bus replacement monies, DERA has assisted Oyster River in having Webasto heaters installed in several of our older buses. The Webasto heaters have reduced idle time tremendously with Oyster River's school bus fleet."

Since 2009, NHDES has administered the DERA grant program that provides

*DERA, cont. page 3*





*Coffin Brook floodplain connectivity project in Alton.*

projects. State and federal regulators are also considering using this type of program as a strategy for countering the otherwise long-lasting negative impacts of climate change on New Hampshire's communities and natural resources.

The ARM Fund program offers something for everyone: a mechanism for developers to proceed with projects that were not viable because of limited compensatory mitigation options; a chance for municipalities to accomplish high priority local conservation goals; and an opportunity for the state to accomplish projects with greater conservation value than can be achieved through conventional compensatory wetland mitigation efforts. Overall, the ARM Fund provides an opportunity to achieve large-scale restoration and land conservation goals while maintaining a strong New Hampshire economy. This 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognizes the hard work and accomplishments of the ARM Fund program and its collaboration with federal and state organizations and bodes well for even greater success in the coming years. ■

## Food Drive



delivered the donations to Maria Manus Panichaud, Treasurer of the Capital Region Food Program, at the State Armory on December 17. ■

governmental organizations to identify projects of local, regional or even statewide significance that can protect or rehabilitate other wetlands or streams, in an attempt to achieve "no net loss" of the functions and values of aquatic resources. So far, the \$10,708,000 collected in in-lieu fee payments from 115 wetlands permit recipients have supported 61 projects that restore, enhance, and preserve aquatic resources and upland buffers around them. To date, the recipients of ARM Fund grants across those 61 projects have collectively been able to permanently conserve approximately 12,300 acres of land, to restore or enhance 100 acres of wetlands, improve fish passage along some 45 miles of streams, restore 5 acres of oyster reefs, and undertake a multi-habitat restoration of mudflats and salt marshes. From the Seacoast to the Nash Stream in Coos County, the ARM Fund has served as the catalyst for land conservation and habitat improvement projects and has leveraged additional funds of nearly \$12.5 million for these very significant

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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## Longevity Awards

The following NHDES employees are celebrating a milestone in years of service to the State of NH. Congratulations!

### 30 YEARS

David S. Leathers, WMD  
John M. Regan, WMD  
Lisa A. Fortier, WD  
Richard P. Schofield, WD  
Sarah Pillsbury, WD  
Maureen Estabrook, WMD

### 25 YEARS

Timothy J. Verville, ARD  
Anne M. Keach, ARD  
Mark A. Corliss, WD  
Richard C. Skarinka, WD  
Alan H. Moulton, ARD  
Mary Ann Tilton, WD

### 20 YEARS

Barbara McMillan, WD  
David S. Gordon, ARD  
James R. Poisson, ARD  
Harrison D. Mackey, WD  
Grace E. Levergood, WD  
Jocelyn S. Degler, WD  
Dawn Howe, CO  
Raymond T. Gordon III, WD

### 15 YEARS

Jacqueline A. Beaulé-Harnish, CO  
Derek S. Bennett, WD  
Christian P. Williams, WD  
Brandon M. Kernen, WMD  
Maria L. Michel, WMD  
Craig D. Rennie, WD  
Todd A. Moore, ARD  
David E. Neils, WD  
Leah L. McKenna, WD  
Michael P. O'Brien, ARD  
Elaine M. Bolduc, CO  
Craig M. Shippee, WD

### 15 YEARS, cont.

Padmaja Baru, ARD  
Ann-Marie Smith, CO  
Laura J. Filiau, WMD  
Dale R. Keirstead, WD  
Timothy D. Sweatt, WD  
Debra A. Sonderegger, WD  
Sara J. Johnson, CO

### 10 YEARS

Pamela C. Sopczyk, CO  
Laura M. Weit-Marcum, WMD  
Gloria S. Andrews, WD  
Eric M. Skoglund, WD  
Dawn R. Buker, WD  
Lara L. Stumpo, ARD  
Darren K. King, WD  
Genevieve Z. Al-Egaily, WD  
Eben M. Lewis, WD  
Jane A. Murray, WD  
Glenda Gagnon, WMD  
Edward M. Walsh, WD  
Bruce R. Harless, WD  
Stephen J. Roy, WD  
Cynthia M. Klevens, WD  
Robert Daniel, WD  
Dean F. Robinson Jr., CO

## DERA continued from page 1

reimbursements for a variety of diesel emission reduction technologies, ranging from upgraded exhaust filters to idle reduction technology to complete vehicle replacements. Past reimbursements have paid for the installation of auxiliary vehicle heaters (allowing engines to be shut off), ambulance anti-idling kiosks, engine replacements and the replacement of trucks and buses. Grant recipients have ranged from municipalities such as Nashua, which purchased compressed natural gas garbage trucks, to businesses like the New England Southern Railroad, which installed idle reduction equipment on their railroad engines, to local fishermen who have retired old marine diesel engines.

Grant reimbursements vary depending on the technology purchased and all equipment purchased must be EPA-approved and operate in New Hampshire. For more information and an application, visit NHDES' diesel vehicles and equipment web page at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/msp/diesel-vehicles/index.htm> or contact Dolores: (603) 271-6751 or [dolores.rebolledo@des.nh.gov](mailto:dolores.rebolledo@des.nh.gov). ■



## 2015 New Hampshire Salt Symposium Success

Over 130 snow industry professionals attended the second annual New Hampshire Salt Symposium in Windham to see equipment and brine-making demonstrations, and to hear from expert speakers on how to maintain safe parking lots, roads and walkways while reducing the use of salt. Multiple snow and ice management industry vendors were able to interact with attendees throughout the day.

The symposium is part of the New Hampshire Certified Green SnowPro program and is sponsored by NHDES, UNH Technology Transfer Center and the Snow and Ice Management Association. With the potential for road salt to pollute water, the goal of the program is to improve efficiency in salt use and to ensure safe conditions for pedestrians and vehicles while reducing salt pollution. ■



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# MtBE Funds Assisting with Spill Prevention at Motor Vehicle Recycling Facilities

In 2013, the State of New Hampshire settled Methyl-tertiary-Butyl-Ether (MtBE) groundwater contamination litigation with multiple petroleum refiners and distributors. The settlements required that \$81.6 million of the funds be spent on MtBE-related cleanup activities. The settlement funds reside in a New Hampshire Department of Justice (DOJ) account and NHDES administers the program under a Memorandum of Understanding with DOJ. In 2014, NHDES completed extensive public outreach efforts on the program implementation plan. An element of the adopted implementation plan was spill prevention assistance to Motor Vehicle Recycling Facilities (MVRF).

To ensure that the MVRF assistance program is both cost effective and pragmatic, NHDES and the Auto and

Truck Recyclers Association (ATRA) of New Hampshire developed a work group to provide input into, and help with the development of, the program. After a series of well-attended and thoughtful meetings in 2015, NHDES decided to purchase and distribute spill prevention equipment. Working together with ATRA and the work group was very helpful.

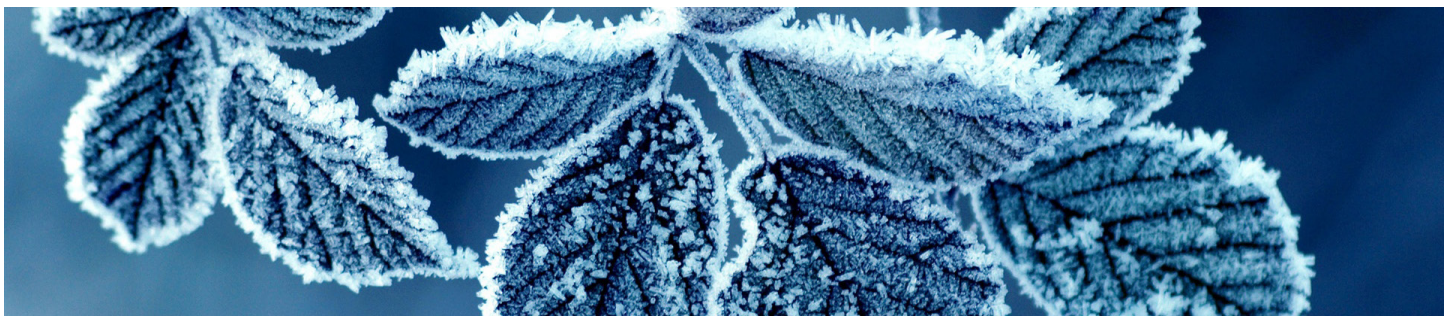
New Hampshire MVRFs have a long history of working with WEN Industries, an in-state manufacturer of automotive fluid spill prevention equipment. Because of the strong relationship between in-state recyclers, ATRA and WEN Industries, it was possible for ATRA to negotiate a steep volume discount on WEN's spill prevention equipment. ATRA also encouraged members close to WEN's manufactur-

ing facility to pick up the equipment to save on shipping costs. Additionally, ATRA managed the paper work for member and non-member facilities post application for the assistance. This greatly simplified the equipment procurement process. The majority of the equipment had been delivered by the time this article was written and NHDES expected that all of the equipment will have been delivered by the end of 2015.

WEN Industries' participation was very important to the program's success. The company was founded in New Hampshire in 1956 and was one of the first manufacturers of auto dismantling products. WEN Industries manufactures the equipment purchased by the assistance program, the Gas Buggy and Fuel Tank Drill System. This equipment is used to safely transfer gasoline from scrapped to operating vehicles. WEN Industries was purchased in 2013 by Hyde Specialty Products. The new owner, Jim Hyde, is a New Hampshire native committed to in-state manufacturing. Their niche manufacturing products are shipped nationally and internationally. Although the spill prevention equipment assistance is focused on the minimization of MtBE containing gasoline spills, a significant side benefit is improvements in gasoline transfer safety. In the past there have been burns and fatalities when gasoline was transferred without considering the potential for sparks (i.e., hand drill use, etc.); these types of injuries will be minimized with the new equipment. ■



*A gas buggy and fuel tank drill system being picked up by Warren's Auto Body.*



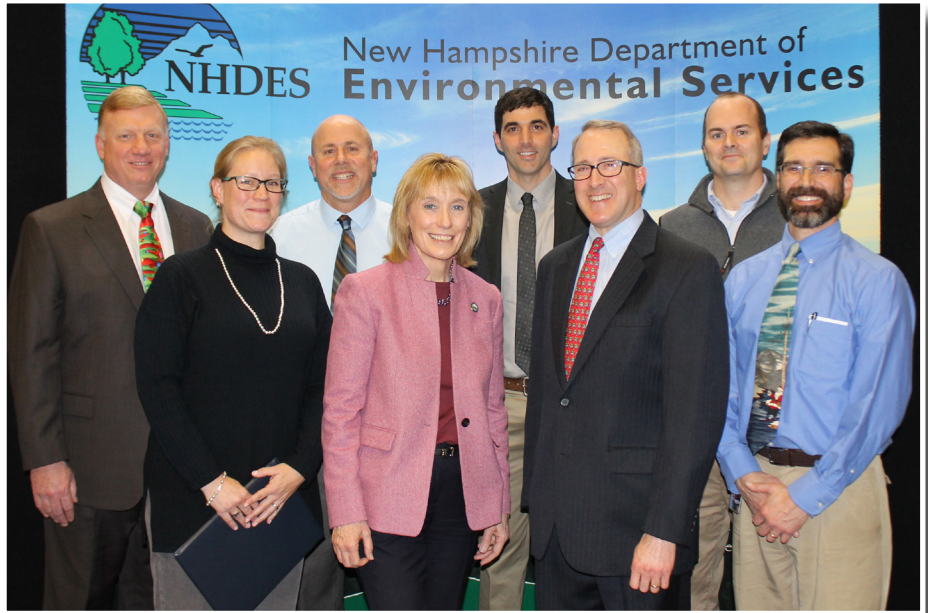
## NHDES 2015 Employee of the Year – Vince Perelli

NHDES supports an employee recognition program, designed to acknowledge outstanding work performed by staff during the current year, from which an annual Employee of the Year is selected. Criteria for selecting the recipient include a person's impact on NHDES, demonstrations of initiative and leadership, improved efficiency, participation in Lean activities, improvement of inter/intra-agency cooperation, innovativeness and effective customer service. Candidates are selected by the NHDES R&R Committee, which then recommends to the Commissioner the most deserving candidate for this year-end award. Since the inception of the R&R program, fewer than a dozen individuals, selected from more than 420 members of staff and management, have been honored in this way.

The 2015 Employee of the Year, Vince Perelli, Administrator of the Planning, Prevention & Assistance Unit, is often asked to wear many "hats" and currently serves as lead for several ongoing projects, including Measures Tracking and Reporting System, Quality Assurance Planning and the Continuity of Operations Plan.

This is the first year NHDES utilized the Swift911 system for the prompt mass delivery of messages to NHDES staff and others. When the water main serving 29 Hazen Drive broke and staff had to be dismissed for the day, everyone signed up for Swift911 received the same message, including people who were out of the office (so they knew not to try to come back to the office that afternoon). Well ahead of time, staff knew that the office would be open in the morning via another Swift911 message. Vince is the reason NHDES has this system in place and it is a truly innovative solution with high impact, as it improves efficiency and inter/intra-agency cooperation, and puts the customer (including NHDES employees) first. The process of acquiring and implementing the system started several years ago, and it was full of obstacles. The initiative, leadership and perseverance Vince demonstrated throughout have paid off and all of NHDES benefits as a result.

Vince was also recognized this year for his short notice preparation of a keynote presentation for Commissioner Burack at the Exchange Network's Conference in Philadelphia. Vince's skill set with PowerPoint, and his patience and commitment were highlighted as he developed a concise and appropriate set of images that helped to effectively tell the story of why E-Enterprise for the Environment matters to



*L-R: Assistant Commissioner Clark Freise, Jennifer Paiton, Scott Hilton, Governor Maggie Hassan, Kevin Lucey, Commissioner Thomas Burack, Chris Skoglund, Vince Perelli*

the states.

Thank you, Vince, for always being such a team player and upholding the highest standards of internal and external customer service.

### Candidates for Employee of the Year

**Scott Hilton** was recognized for his ongoing efforts to manage the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Sites Subsection at the NHDES Pease International Tradeport office. He has been the Project Manager for the former Pease Air Force Base Superfund site for over 20 years.

**Kevin Lucey** was recognized for the significant leadership and impact he has had as the agency's coastal restoration coordinator. Kevin is the NHDES Coastal Programs lead and project manager for projects that are complicated and very technical in nature.

**Jennifer Paiton**, former Program Assistant in the Public Information and Permitting Unit's File Review Section, was being recognized for outstanding customer service in providing consistent and timely access to all of NHDES' records, in accordance with the requirements of the "New Hampshire Right-to-Know Act."

**Chris Skoglund**, in the Air Resources Division, was recognized for his outstanding efforts on climate change. Chris personifies the definition of a dedicated public servant. His initiative, knowledge and talent for engaging others provides the leadership needed to get the job done without concern as to where credit is given. ■



## 2015 Team & Individual Awards

### Exemplary Lean Project Award – NHDES/EPA Region 1



NHDES and EPA Region 1 operate under multi-year Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs), which creates the basic framework for joint environmental, public health, and programmatic priority setting, as well as the development of negotiated work plans. Over \$5 million in EPA dollars forms the annual Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), which helps to fund priorities, commitments and work plans. Given significant staffing and organizational changes at EPA Region 1, and account policies, it was necessary for staff to gain a more in-depth understanding of the constraints facing each state agency.

As a result, NHDES and EPA Region 1 agreed to charter one of the first, formal joint Lean events between a state environmental agency and EPA Region 1. The result was a streamlined PPA document and development processes that will eventually accelerate the completion timeframe for these agreements by four to six months. NHDES staff helped to shift the annual Priorities and Commitments List planning process for the New England States to a two-year planning cycle, which was a goal of EPA. NHDES took a leadership role in bringing the other New England states to consensus, and led a pilot to design a new two-year P&C List. This approach is now serving as a model for other EPA regional offices and their respective states. Congratulations to the NHDES/EPA Region 1 Lean Project Team on a job well done!

*NHDES Team Members:* Susan Carlson, Ted Diers, John Duclos, Vincent Perelli, Wendy Waskin, Michael Bradley, Carolyn Russell

*EPA Region 1 Team Members:* Steve Boudrot, Jennifer Brady, Lucy Casella, Dave Conroy, Deborah Harstedt, Johanna Hunter, Edward Kim, Michael Ochs, Stephen Perkins, and Kristi Rae Simoneau

### Team Excellence Award – Granite Migration Project

The 2015 Team Excellence Award is presented to the NHDES Granite Migration Project Team for its coordination with the

Department of Information Technology (DoIT) on the transfer of our information servers to the Granite domain server. Recognizing that a project of this magnitude would require significant staff involvement, the NHDES Granite Domain Migration Team of approximately 30 staff was established. For eight months beginning in the Fall of 2014, Muriel Lajoie and Andrew Cornwell expertly led a multi-pronged, department-wide effort to clean up and re-organize all electronic files and folders across the agency, standardize file and folder naming conventions, identify accountable folder “owners,” identify, track, and resolve all database and website links broken as a result of modified folder/file names, and establish access rights and file editing permissions that would allow for enhanced file sharing across NHDES and other state agencies. In an essential related effort led by Matthew Wood and Kristen Svendsen, all GIS data was cleaned up, re-organized, and re-named by topic on a secure, dedicated shared drive. In all, outstanding teamwork within NHDES and between NHDES and DoIT, excellent leadership, and outstanding attention to detail resulted in the successful implementation of a very large project with minimal disruptions to agency staff and operations.

Congratulations to the NHDES Granite Migration Project Team for a job well done!



*Members:* Muriel Lajoie, Andrew Cornwell, Kim Boone, Susan Carlson, Rick Chormann, Sharda Rao, Gretchen Hamel, Lauren Dethlefs, Bob Minicucci, Jeff Underhill, Mike Little, Michelle Roberge, Karla McManus, Felice Janelle, Carolyn Guerdet, Jacob Ruiter, Laurie Cullerot, Jocelyn Degler, Melanie Titus, Sharon McMillin, Amy Clark, Kristen Svendsen, Matthew Wood, Pam Werner, Wendy Bonner, John Duclos, Karlee Kenison, Gary Lynn, Sarah Yuhaskirn, Maria Michel, Kellie Currier, Zak Brown, Jay Joplin, Chris Simmers, Rick Druding, Dan Burleigh, Peter Paplaskas, David Cormier, and Roy Sell

*Awards, cont. page 7*

## **AWARDS** *continued from page 6*

### **Exemplary Customer Service Award – MtBE Remediation Bureau Sampling Program**

The 2015 NHDES Customer Service Award is presented to the Methyl-tertiary-Butyl-Ether (MtBE) Remediation Bureau sampling program for providing exemplary service to New Hampshire homeowners. From day one, customer service has been built in to the core structure of this program. Before sampling occurs in a community, town officials and local politicians are notified. When sampling, the MtBE program staff realize that timeliness is of the utmost importance, so appointments are scheduled within a one-hour window and every effort is made to minimize inconvenience to homeowners. The data collected by the staff are digitized, allowing real-time answers to homeowner questions. Also, sampling services extend beyond program confines. Frequently, staff collects samples for other homeowner-requested analyses, beyond the volatile organic chemical analysis paid for by the MtBE settlement funds.

To date, NHDES has heard only positive comments from the approximately two-thousand homes that have been sampled. Congratulations team!



*Members:* Derek Bennett, Deb Loiselle, Eric Abrams, Kala Day, Greg Cummings, Tanya Dyson, Katie Zink, Stephanie Nistico and Tina Clark

### **Outstanding Compliance Assurance – Mike O'Brien**

Mike O'Brien supervises the Testing and Monitoring Section in the Air Resources Division's Compliance Bureau. He oversees the continuous air pollution monitoring activities at more than 20 of New Hampshire's largest emission sources, and stack testing at over 50 different facilities.

Mike's work does not come without sacrifices as he is often traveling and working in whatever weather Mother Nature throws at him, since testing can occur in the heat of summer, the cold of winter, in windy, rainy or snowy conditions. The job is often physically demanding, working around dangerous machinery, and frequently at elevations hundreds of feet above the ground. Even at ground level, it can mean walking over a landfill for hours with a heavy backpack analyzer to



determine if a landfill's emissions are properly controlled. Testing schedules are often unpredictable, frequently beginning at sunrise and extending into the night.

A recent example of Mike's dedication to his job is noted in an EPA Region 1 memo to NHDES, "I wish every state had a Mike O'Brien running the stack testing program!" Thanks to Mike, we have cleaner, healthier air in New Hampshire for all to breathe. Congratulations Mike, and thank you for your great work!

### **Outstanding Support Services – Jennifer Hart**

Serving as the front desk receptionist is not an easy task. The receptionist is not only the face of our agency to building visitors, but also the first person with whom most of our customers interact. In this role, Jen has consistently served as a cheerful and enthusiastic representative of NHDES, always going above and beyond to help ensure that our customers are receiving all of the information or referrals to appropriate staff or program contacts that they seek. As a testament to the consistent quality of Jen's work, NHDES has not received a single negative comment about the front desk support services since Jen has been in charge.

In addition to the thousands of calls and visitors that she handles on an annual basis, Jen also flawlessly coordinates hundreds of room reservations for the building. Again, this is a role that requires patience, persistence, and a great attitude – all of which Jen brings with her to work each and every day. Congratulations, Jen, on a job well done!





## Operation Santa Claus

The NHDES Operation Santa Claus (OSC) Team works diligently each year to help address the needs of less fortunate children (and their families) during the holiday season and beyond. The OSC campaign is sponsored by the State Employees Association of New Hampshire (SEIU Local 1984). As a result of generous donations, NHDES was able to provide 103 children with Christmas presents. In addition to individual contributions, over \$3,500 was also raised from basket raffles, a bake sale, 50/50 drawings and the annual Chili/Chowder Bowl contest.

NHDES finds comfort in knowing that many wonderful children across New Hampshire, who may be living in challenging conditions through no fault of their own, will be smiling during the holidays knowing that the SEA, NHDES, other state and local agencies, organizations and schools truly care about their happiness and well-being; not only for the holidays, but throughout the year. ■



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